

**SHERROD BROWN**  
OHIO

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AND URBAN AFFAIRS  
FINANCE  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505

May 22, 2023

Mr. Joseph Hinrichs  
President and CEO  
CSX  
500 Water Street, 15th Floor  
Jacksonville, FL 32202.

Mr. Hinrichs:

I hear from Ohioans across the state who are concerned that old and dilapidated rail infrastructure poses a threat to local economies and to residents' safety. In too many cases, your company has failed to properly maintain and repair the bridges and other infrastructure you own in Ohio, leaving local communities to deal with the consequences and bear the costs.

First, I am requesting a comprehensive list of all Ohio rail bridges owned or maintained by your company.

Second, I request that this comprehensive list include your company's assessment of each bridge's condition. This assessment should not be limited to an assertion that a bridge is "structurally sound." Please provide a complete assessment of any damage or deterioration identified for an individual bridge, including damaged or falling concrete, temporary repair measures, measures employed to prevent concrete or other building materials from falling onto roads or waterways, and any other site conditions that negatively affect the community, including drainage issues, unrepaired lighting or sidewalks or graffiti.

Third, note in the comprehensive list every bridge in Ohio that has a problem that a government entity, elected official, or community representative has asked to be addressed by your respective railroads.

Finally, I am requesting a specifically-tailored action plan for any structurally-unsound bridge or any bridge that, while structurally-sound, may cause harm to the public due to its state of disrepair.

I have received additional reports of falling concrete and other hazards involving CSX rail bridges in Geneva, Ohio. Deteriorated bridges have been dismissed by engineers and business

representatives of Ohio's Class I railroads, who suggest that bridges merely need to hold the weight of freight passing overhead. This is obviously unacceptable, especially to residents that drive or walk underneath your company's bridges and who are fearful of falling concrete or other building material.

Specifically, CSX's rail bridge on Route 20 by Geneva is also exhibiting severe concrete erosion, and local officials have blocked off the walkway underneath because of longstanding unaddressed safety concerns.

Your company is responsible for this infrastructure, and your company has a duty to proactively invest a fair share of revenues into properly maintaining tracks and bridges within the local communities that host your trains. Structural integrity is vital – but is not sufficient. Decaying, decrepit bridges remain a threat to local communities. Anything less than full repair of all of your infrastructure in Ohio communities is insufficient.

I expect your full report as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



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Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator